

Isaiah 10:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols?

Analysis

The Assyrian's concluding threat: 'Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols?' The question expects affirmative answer, yet proves tragically wrong. The fatal flaw: Jerusalem and her idols were NOT equal to Samaria and her idols. While both kingdoms had lapsed into idolatry, Jerusalem housed the temple of the living God. Yahweh would indeed judge Judah's idolatry (later through Babylon), but not through Assyria—and not yet. The Assyrian failed to understand that God's timing, not human power, determines historical outcomes.

Historical Context

Samaria fell in 722 BC; Sennacherib threatened Jerusalem in 701 BC. During that 21-year period, Assyria seemed invincible. The northern kingdom's destruction appeared to validate the Assyrian's theology. Yet when 185,000 Assyrian soldiers died in one night (Isaiah 37:36), divine sovereignty was vindicated. The Assyrian's question haunts human history: militarily inferior powers shouldn't survive against superpower aggression. Yet God's purposes, not military might, determine outcomes.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When has seemingly inevitable defeat been reversed by God's intervention in your life or in history?
2. How does God's defense of Jerusalem (for a time) despite their idolatry demonstrate His covenant faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	וְלֹאֲלִיל יָהּ	לְשֹׁמֵר וֶן	אֲעֹשֶׂה הָ	כַּאֲשֶׁר רָהֵל אֶ
H3651	H457	H8111	H6213	H3808
	and her idols	unto Samaria	Shall I not as I have done	
				H834
וְלֹאֲלִיל יָהּ:	לְיִרוּשָׁלַיִם	אֲעֹשֶׂה הָ		
H6091	H3389	H6213		
and her idols	to Jerusalem	Shall I not as I have done		